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A
NEW SYSTEM
FOR
MEASURING AND CUTTING
LADIES' DRESSES,
CLOAKS, COLLARS, CAPES, YOKES, &c.
WITH AN
ARITHMETICAL TABLE,

For which the Author received a Patent from the United States, January 23, 1841.

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BY AARON A. TENTLER.

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PHILADELPHIA: 1842.

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P R E F A C E .



THE Author takes pleasure in presenting to the Public, and to the Ladies in particular, this little work, which he trusts will prove serviceable to every one as a manual. He is impressed with the conviction, that any one, after reading it carefully two or three times,—keeping the Arithmetical Table in view at the same time,—will be able to cut any kind of dress, after any fashion, in a very easy manner; and that such dress will fit as well as if it had been cut in any other way. He has not the least doubt that this little book will realize his expectations; for by the aid of it, every lady may learn to make any kind of dress herself, in a very short time; while the learning of the trade requires a long time, and is far more expensive and difficult. She will, also, not run the risk of forgetting, in future, any thing of it; for a careful perusal of the book will soon recall every thing to her memory.

Before we proceed to the subject itself, we would call the attention of the reader to several points which must be carefully observed.

When taking the measure, the individual must always stand facing you, in an erect position. The Arithmetical Table must be so placed that the figure of the front waist will be

on your left, that of the back to your right, and consequently the scale immediately before you. It is also advisable to cut, at first, a pattern of white paper, in order to save stuff; this, however, is not necessary with the skirt, for you can tear it after the length of your measure.

Read very carefully two or three times the directions for measuring; then take the measure before you proceed further; and in like manner for each part of the work.

A NEW SYSTEM, &c.

THE MEASURING.

You take a strip of a paper, and cut it $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and double it. One end of this paper must be cut to a point, as the annexed figure shows, in order to know where the measure begins. You then put this pointed end of the measure exactly under the arm where the sleeve is sewed in, and measure down as far as the waist may require ; precisely at this spot you make a hole in the paper, and write over it No. 1. (See the figure.) When this is done, you again take the top of the measure, and put it right on the place where the skirt is to be sewed on the waist, and let it come down as far as the length of the dress is demanded. Here, again, you make a hole in your paper, as before, and write down No. 2. (See the figure.) Now put the top of your measure again under the arm where the sleeve is sewed in, and measure to the wrist, make a mark on the measure, as before, and write down No. 3. Measure then the width of the wrist, beginning again with the pointed end of the measure, double it in half, make on the spot to which this half reaches a nick in one edge of the paper, as the figure shows, and write down No. 4. Now measure with the pointed end of your measure, from one arm to the other, across the breast, from and to the place where the sleeves are sewed in, then double this width of the breast in half,

No.4

No.1

o

No.5

No.6

No.7

No.3

o

No.2


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and mark such a half of the measure by two nicks in the edges of the paper, and write down No. 5. Now take your measure again, as before, and measure the width of the waist, but omit in front a space about as broad as your thumb ; of this measure you take again the half, make on the spot to which it reaches nicks on both edges of the paper, and write down No. 6. Again the measure is to be taken on the pointed end, and you measure, precisely under the arms, around the body, as well behind as in front, not higher nor lower than mentioned. The measure must lie very close to the body, and be drawn together well in front ; the half of this width is again marked on the measure, on both edges of the paper, by nicks, and marked No. 7. It is necessary, if a third person be not present, for the one who holds the measure to pin it on the back, that it may not come out of its position ; for this measure is to be taken very exactly, being the main measure, on which the whole calculation of cutting a dress is based.



CUTTING OF THE BACK WAIST.

HAVING put the Arithmetical Table before you, so as to bring the pattern of the back waist to your right, and the scale immediately before you, take a piece of white paper, (perfectly clean, so that the marks made shall not be obscure or confused,) about 22 inches long by 12 to 15 inches broad, and put this paper under the right hand side of the Arithmetical Table, on which the figure of the back waist is found, and place it square with the Table, both above and below, and on your right hand side. This paper now lying under the Arithmetical Table, (the only table mentioned in this book,) is to be the pattern of the back waist. Now place something heavy on the Table, that nothing can be disturbed. Taking the pointed end of the measure

in your left hand, you lay it on the beginning of the Scale, which is marked at your left hand on the Arithmetical Table, and see how far No. 7 of your measure reaches on the scale. If now, for instance, the nicks of No. 7 on your measure should reach as far as to 8 on the scale, you make dots with a pencil in each of the holes which are to be found in the figure of the back waist on the Arithmetical Table, at 8; but in such a manner that the dots may be seen distinctly on the paper which lies under the table. You will have then the same small pattern which is drawn on the table, which is so small, however, that it would only suit a toy. But if the nicks of No. 7 on your measure should reach on the scale as far as to 15, (it is always understood that the pointed end of your measure is to be laid on the beginning of the scale on the left hand side of the table, and which is marked thus, ) make dots with a pencil in all the holes on 15, in each of the lines proceeding from 8, on the small pattern of the back. If the nicks of No. 7 on your measure reach on the scale between 15 and 16, you will make dots in all the holes between 15 and 16, in each of the lines which proceed from 8, on the small pattern of the back, beginning with the letter A, and ending with the letter H. So you will proceed, if No. 7 on your measure should reach a lower or higher number on the scale; making dots in the holes on the figures which No. 7 reaches to, in all the lines proceeding from 8, of the small pattern of the back waist. It is very necessary to be careful, in making the dots, not to overlook any of the lines proceeding from 8. You ought also to commence on your right hand, with the letter A, and go round to your left, ending with H.

Having marked carefully all the dots on the paper under the Arithmetical table, you bend the table a little on the right hand side, and put down near each of the dots the same letters, as you find them on the table near each

line on the small pattern of the back waist, namely, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H. The lines are then to be drawn with a ruler as follows: the first from A to H, the second from A to B, the third from B to C, the fourth from E to F, the fifth from F to G, and the sixth from G to H. Observe, from C to E, no line is to be drawn, for here must be left a space for the circle of the sleeve-hole. In order to obtain this circle correctly, connect the dots C, D and E, by several smaller dots, and finish the circle; keep at the same time in view the circle of the small pattern on the table, and you will perceive in what manner the circle is to be made.

The length of No. 1 on your measure will, however, seldom fit the pattern, since one person is tall and thin, and another stout and small. You have therefore to lay the pointed end of your measure on the dot C of the pattern, and let it come down as far as B, or rather always as far as the measure of No. 1 will require, and there you make a mark. It is commonly the case, that the measure No. 1 reaches further than to B. If this be the case, then add as much to the dot A as to B, and draw a line from A to B. In order to obtain this lengthened line in the same direction with the pattern, complete the two lines from A to H and from B to C, to the lengthened line. If the pattern which you have made according to the table be longer than the measure No. 1, cut as much off. Now be careful that you put down correctly the letters on the pattern, as you find them on the table, on the inside of the pattern, that the letters may not get lost by cutting. This pattern, which is close to the neck, can also be cut to the taste of the lady, as may be seen on the table. Further, it is to be remarked, that the letters A and B are to be placed where the line, which has been lengthened in accordance with the measure No. 1, reaches to, in order to avoid any mistake. Finally, the pattern of the back may be cut out exactly after the lines.

CUTTING OF THE FRONT WAIST.

You proceed with the front waist exactly as with the back. You take again a piece of white paper, as large as that for the back, and place it in the same manner, but it must extend 2 inches beyond the table on the left hand side; you then place something heavy on the table. If the measure of the back pattern be 15, or between 15 and 16, you will have to apply here the same number, or rather the one to which No. 7 reaches. You begin again with the line A, proceeding on the small pattern from 8, and continue going around and marking dots in all the holes until you conclude with I. Bend now the table a little towards your left, and put down the letters as you find them on the small pattern of the front part, viz. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I; draw lines from A to I, from A to B, from B to C, from E to F, from F to G. You do not draw a line from C to E, as this is again the place for the circle of the sleeve hole. You get this circle by connecting the dots C, D and E by several smaller dots, to complete the circle; look at the same time at the pattern of the front waist, on the table, and you will see how it is to be finished. Now a circle is also to be made around the neck, which must extend from G to H, and from H to I. This circle of the neck must, however, not be too perceptible, but ought to appear rather straight. Put down between G and H, and H and I small dots, and you will understand how to make the circle very easily, by observing it on the small pattern on the table. Now lay the pattern of the back where the letters B and C are marked, right on the front waist, where B and C stand, and direct the length of the front pattern just as long as that of the back, and put down a dot. Measure then the distance of the dot B of the front waist to the dot you have made just now, and put down also a dot at the same distance right under A. Draw now from the dot exactly under B right

across the dot A, a line about 2 inches further than the pattern reaches towards the left. Take the pointed end of your measure into your right hand, and putting it on the dot near D, measure towards the left, right over to the line that runs from A to I. You must see how far the nicks of the measure No. 5 go on the width of the breast and make there a dot. Now put the ruler on this dot, and draw a line in the same direction as A to I. By looking on the table you will see the pattern. Now draw the circle of the neck together as far as to this line. In order to obtain the correct height of the breast plaits, you have to draw a line on the pattern, commencing under the dot C, at the distance of a finger's breadth, and terminating on the line which runs from A to I. The same distance gained from the line A to I, to the outside line, by the breast measure, No. 5, is now to be folded down the back from A to H, in the same direction as it is marked in the front pattern. This that is folded down allows for sewing the back and front together under the arm.

Lay then the folded back pattern with B and C on the front pattern B and C, and put something on it, that it may not move from its position. Now lay the pointed end of your measure on the undermost line of the back pattern, from the corner that is folded down in a forward direction towards the front waist, as far as the mark of the measure No. 6 reaches, and make there on the undermost line a mark near the nick of the measure. The remainder of the waist produced by this mark is to be divided for the breast plaits. You may now take the fold out of the back, as it was folded only to get the correct size of the waist. If you wish two breast plaits, you divide the remainder in two equal parts. Commence the first plait at a distance of about two finger's breadth from the outside line on the undermost line. If the breast plaits are to be bias, place dots on the line running one finger's breadth under C, in an oblique

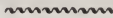
direction. If the breast plaits are to be straight, you proceed in the midst from the marks which are intended for the plaits upwards, and make dots on the upper line. In the midst of these two breast plaits you proceed two fingers breadth from the undermost line downwards, and make a dot; lay then the ruler on this dot, and draw a line from it in an oblique direction upwards towards the outside line of the front waist, and also another, from the same dot, in a similar direction towards the corner B of the front waist.

In case you wish but one breast plait, take the remainder of the waist together, and place it also in a distance of two finger's breadth from the outside line, making on both sides of the plait dots on the undermost line. When you make but one breast plait, you have always to proceed higher up, about as high as D; it may be in a straight or bias direction, as observed before. In the midst of this breast plait you make a mark, about the breadth of a thumb distant below the undermost line, and draw from this mark lines to each of the corners B and the outside line. You draw then lines from the upper dot to the under dots, one for each plait, as you will observe on the table. When the plaits are sewed, it is necessary to sew somewhat deeper, when in the midst of the plait, in order to form a cavity, and to make it fit better. When the front and back waist are sewed together, it is also necessary to sew, when in the midst, half an inch deeper, to obtain a fine shape; but you must avoid doing it too far up or down. (See the table.)

The pattern of the front waist is now completed, and may be cut fitting close to the neck, or with the waist cut out in front. Yet before it is cut out, all the letters must be placed correctly on the inside of the pattern, and if the lines are lengthened, A and B are to be placed on the undermost line.

The front as well as the back waist are to be made round, about half an inch from the dots near F, so that this

roundness may terminate in the midst of the shoulders. (See the pattern on the Arithmetical Table.) In cutting the stuff after those two patterns, add as much to the shoulders as is necessary for the seams. You need not add anything for the sleeve-hole or neck. When the dress is to be hooked in front, reserve two inches of the stuff in front ; if it is to be hooked in the back, reserve as much behind. If you wish the waist pointed in front of the dress, you must reserve as much stuff as will be required. If you wish the waist with plaits or decorations, you must prepare them at first, as described, and fix them afterwards on the waist. When you have measured the width of the breast from the dot D, and you find the space in front to be too small and insufficient for the seam of the waist under the arm, which will particularly be the case with children's dresses, you have to reserve as much of the stuff, when cutting it, as will supply for the seams. It is not necessary, when putting the back and front part together, (B and C,) and measuring the waist, in order to find the division of the breast plaits, to fold in any thing of the back pattern.



CUTTING OF THE SLEEVE.

You put again a piece of white paper under the Arithmetical Table ; this paper must reach exactly as far as the table, both above and below, to your right 6 inches further than the table, and to your left about 9 inches further than the table. Put something heavy on it, that both may remain in their position. Make dots on the figure of the sleeve in those holes where you find A, B and C, so that they may show on the paper under it. To the other lines proceeding from this figure of the sleeve, D, E and F, which you see encircled and which begin with 8, you have to apply exactly the same measure as to the front and back

waist ; that is to say, you make in the lines D, E and F dots in each of the holes near the number. Bend the table a little, and put down the letters near each dot carefully on the paper, as they are on the table. Now lay your ruler on the dots A, B and C, and draw a line across the paper to your right and left. Measure then, with a piece of ribbon, from the dot B to the dot F, and exactly in the midst between these two dots you put down a dot. Put down also a dot between the one just now made and the dot E, between the latter and F again one, and at last one between D and E. All these dots draw together from D to F, that you may have a circle as the figure of the mutton sleeve shows. Now put the pointed end of your measure on the dot F, and measure towards the circle, as far down as the hole No. 3 of your measure will reach, and there make a dot in the same direction with the dot D. If the measure No. 3 should reach farther than the dot D, you must widen the circle that much, and draw from the fixed dot a line which runs down to the line that is drawn from A to B and C. Now put down the letter D on the measured spot, and scratch the former D. You now lay the measure No. 4 on the line just drawn, and you will find that the width of the wrist on the pattern is somewhat wider than on the measure, which is calculated for the seams of the sleeve. Now take a piece of ribbon about three quarters of a yard long, and hold one end of it between the thumb and pointing finger of your left hand, together with a pencil, which latter must not stand too far forth from the finger, and put the pointed end of your pencil on the dot F. Then lay the other end of your ribbon tight down to the dot B, where the thumb of the right hand must hold the ribbon exactly on the dot B. Then go with your left hand finger, which holds the ribbon and pencil, around from the dot F, to your left, entirely down to the line running from A to B and C, and you will have a per-

fect circle. You must be very careful, while making the circle, to hold the ribbon very tight, and stretched as much as possible. (See the circle on the Table.)

As for the wide sleeve, or bishop sleeve, you proceed in the same manner as the mutton sleeve, until you come to the circle. When making the circle of a bishop sleeve, you put one end of the ribbon and pencil, as above described, on the dot F, and the other end, instead of on the dot B, about a hand's breadth further to your right on the undermost line running through the dots A, B and C.

It is not necessary that your sleeve be wider, in the lines D and E, than 18 ; if the measure No. 7 reaches higher than 18, make a dot in 18, in the lines D and E.

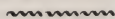
But if you wish to make a sleeve which shall be tight on the upper as well as under part, you must take the measure of the arm near the shoulder. You take then the half of this measure, lay it on the dot B, in the direction of F, and make a dot in the place where the measure reaches to, and mark it F. Take the end of the ribbon and pencil in your left hand, and place the pencil on the dot lastly made. The other end of the ribbon is to be held tightly at a distance of three finger's breadth* from the dot B to the right, and you make the circle from the dot you have marked F downwards to the undermost line. The length and other width of the sleeve is made exactly according to the measure ; but you have to cut out, on the under part of your sleeve where it is sewed on the front waist, about one-fifth of the distance from B to F. In order that the tight sleeve may fit well, it is to be observed, that this sleeve, when sewed in, must be placed with its seam about two thumb's breadth further towards the front, (for a grown person) than the seam of the waist under the arm.

* A finger's breadth means, the breadth of the finger of the person for whom the dress is to be made. So of a thumb's breadth, hand breadth, &c.

CUTTING OF COLLARS, CAPES, YOKES, &c.

These are cut after the high waist. When cutting a collar or cape, lay the pattern of the front and back waist together, with the shoulders where you find F and G, and a paper of the size of both patterns under it, placing A and H of the back pattern on the edge of the paper. The corners G must be close together ; the corners F, however, must be laid one finger's breadth one over another. If the collar is desired still closer and tighter, lay the corners F two or three finger's breadth one over another ; on the neck, however, where the two G's stand, they must be put precisely together. Place something heavy on it. Now make on the paper lying under the table the circle of the neck from I of the front waist to H of the back, and draw also lines on the same paper after the pattern in front from A to I, and behind from A to H. Then put a dot right into the middle of the circle of the neck, which is now before you, and likewise another of the line of the back, as far back as you wish the collar to reach. After having taken away the papers of which you have cut your pattern hold one end of a piece of ribbon and a pencil between the thumb and pointing finger of your right hand and the other with your left, on the dot in the middle of the circle of the neck. You draw with your right hand, holding the ribbon tightly on the paper, a circle from your right to your left, from A to H on the back part, to the line A and I on the front, just the size the cape is to have. A cape should always be shorter in front than behind ; it should be sloped towards the shoulder. When you make a small collar, you take down also the figure of the circle of the neck exactly on the paper below, and draw a line behind, on the back, as long as the collar is to be. The pattern of the collar desired must be marked now on the front and back waist, when you stick with a pin, through the paper below, the shape of the collar seen. If you wish a yoke for a dress, lay the corners F and G, the shoulders of the pattern cut

for the front and back, close together, and make the circle of the neck on the paper below, and likewise on the shoulder near the sleeve hole. Turn the pattern of front and back part as much as you wish the yoke to be long, and make the figure on the paper below.



CUTTING OF A CLOAK, CAPE, AND YOKE.

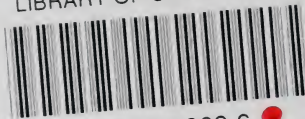
In order to cut a cloak it is necessary to have the patterns of the front and back waist. You put both patterns on the shoulder pieces F and G, with their corners together, and lay a piece of paper below, and a weight on them, so that they do not move. Now mark the circle of the neck, and draw a line close on the back, and another on the front, as long as you wish the yoke, and allow a thumb's breadth more in the direction A to I than the pattern. The thumb's breadth is reserved on account of the wadding the cloak requires. Make a dot on the paper that lays under the front pattern, between the letters E and F, about one or two thumb's breadth longer than the front pattern. This is added to let the yoke come down over the shoulder as far as desired. Now remove the patterns, and draw a circle from the dot towards the back, and another to the front.

Before you sew the cloak on the yoke, cut out from two to three inches on the front pieces of the cloak, in an oblique direction, so that it loses itself towards the shoulder to five-eighths of a yard. But this needs only be done with the front pieces. A cloak cape is to be cut in the same manner as a large collar, certainly always as long as desired. Observe, when cutting a large cape, you cut off in front about one-quarter of a yard, in an oblique direction towards the neck, where, however, it becomes imperceptible; otherwise the cape will not fit well in front, but will lay one over the other. The small collar of the cloak is to be cut exactly according to the circle of the neck, as long behind and in front over the shoulders as is desired.

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